

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 044697

FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

FOLLOWING REPEAT USNATO 0988 ACTION SECSTATE ALL NATO CAPITALS
24 FEB 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0988

FOR EUR/RPM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO PFOR NAC

SUBJ: PROPOSED DATES FOR NAC CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 33544(NOTAL)

(B) USNATO 774(NOTAL)

(C) STATE 31317(NOTAL)

(D) USNATO 616(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AT FEBRUARY 23 NAC MEETING, PERMREPS DISCUSSED
DATES FOR NAC CONSULTATIONS THIS SPRING. ACTION REQUESTED:
SEE PARA 3. END SUMMARY.

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1. DISCUSSION POINTED UP FOLLOWING VIEWS:

(A) DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE: CONSENSUS

FAVORED EARLY CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. LUNS

SUGGESTED DATE OF MARCH 17, WHICH PERMREPS AGREED TO

REPORT TO THEIR AUTHORITIES.

(B) LAW OF THE SEA: HARDY (CANADA) EXPRESSED

VIEW ON INSTRUCTIONS THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS DID NOT JUSTIFY EARLY CONSULTATIONS ON THIS ISSUE. SEVERAL PERMREPS SUPPORTED THIS VIEW. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD REPORT VIEWS EXPRESSED, BUT NOTED THAT HARDY LEFT OPEN POSSIBILITY OF LOS CONSULTATIONS AT A LATER TIME. LUNS AND OTHERS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HOLDING LOS CONSULTATIONS WHEN DEVELOPMENTS WARRANT.

(C) CSCE: HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVED NAC WOULD SIMPLY BE DUPLICATING POLADS WORK IF NAC ALSO MET WITH EXPERTS THIS SPRING. ACCORDINGLY, NETHERLANDS WISHED TO PROPOSE THAT HEADS OF ALLIED CSCE DELEGATIONS HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NAC BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND STAGES OF THE BELGRADE MEETINGS. UK, ITALIAN AND FRENCH PERMREPS SUPPORTED THIS PROPOSAL. SVART (DENMARK) THOUGHT QUESTION OF NAC CONSULTATIONS WITH CSCE EXPERTS SHOULD BE DECIDED AFTER EXPERTS MET WITH POLADS MARCH 22-24. THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL MEETING AND SUGGESTED ALLIES CONSIDER DATE IN APRIL 10-20 PERIOD. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, LUNS LENT SUPPORT TO US PROPOSAL, URGED THAT THE IS PREPARE ITS REPORT ON CSCE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, AND REMANDED THE COUNCIL THAT DELEGATIONS COULD CHOOSE TO INCLUDE EXPERTS IN NAC MEETINGS IF THEY SO DESIRE. WHILE TIME, IN SEVERAL INTERVENTIONS, MADE REFERENCE TO POSITION HE STAKED OUT EARLIER ON REINFORCED NAC MEETINGS, HE DID NOT DIRECTLY OBJECT TO PARTICIPATION

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OF OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS IN THE MEETINGS UNDER DISCUSSION, AND INDEED ANTICIPATED THAT OTHERS MIGHT DESIRE SUCH ATTENDANCE.

(D) OTHER ITEMS: KILLICK (UK) NOTED DESIRABILITY OF CONSULTATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AS A FOLLOW-UP TO SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO THE AREA AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CONSULTATIONS ON RELATIONS WITH THE USSR MIGHT ALSO BE POSSIBLE IN CONNECTION WITH SECRETARY VANCE'S PROPOSED VISIT TO MOSCOW.

2. COMMENT:

(A) FOR CONSULTATIONS ON EASTERN EUROPE, WE RECOMMEND ACCEPTING MARCH 17 DATE. PER REF C, WE TOLD LUNS OF OUR DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE POLICY-LEVEL REPRESENTATION. HOWEVER, WE HAVE GATHERED FROM SUBSEQUENT CONTACTS THAT OTHER ALLIES ARE NOT PREPARED TO TAKE THE LEAD IN SUGGESTING PARTICIPATION OF POLICY OFFICIALS AND THAT SOME, INCLUDING UK, PREFER TO HOLD CONSULTATION AMONG PERMREPS. WHILE WE COULD PRESS FURTHER FOR POLICY-LEVEL ATTENDANCE, WE SUGGEST

WE PLAN TO PARTICIPATE ON THE BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS, PARTICULARLY IF US OFFICIAL COULD NOT ATTEND ON MARCH 17 DATE. IN OUR VIEW, DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING EASTERN EUROPE SHOULD BE SUBJECT OF EARLY CONSULTATION HERE.

(B) IN VIEW OF RESERVATIONS AND LACK OF SUPPORT FOR EARLY CONSULTATIONS ON LOS, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF SUCH CONSULTATION UNTIL LATER THIS YEAR.

(C) ON CSCE, ACTING POLADS CHAIRMAN TOLD US AFTER THE NAC MEETING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE NINE MAY NOT BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE FIRM VIEWS IN THE NAC UNTIL THEIR CAPITALS HAVE CONSIDERED RESULTS OF THE NINE'S APRIL 18 POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING (SEE PARA 2, STATE 39882), AND APRIL 18-19 FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. MOREOVER, IT IS LIKELY TO TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS TO PREPARE AND CLEAR WITH CAPITALS POLADS REPORT TO THE NAC ON CSCE FOLLOWING MARCH 22-24 POLADS MEETING WITH EXPERTS. CONFIDENTIAL

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WE WILL PRESS FOR EARLIER DATE, SUCH AS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, BUT WE ALSO REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT APRIL 27 IF THIS TURNS OUT TO BE DATE MOST ACCEPTABLE TO OTHERS. WE WOULD PROCEED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS WILL PARTICIPATE IN NAC CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE UNLESS STRONG RESERVATIONS ARE EXPRESSED ABOUT THIS ARRANGEMENT.

(D) WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONSIDER MONDAY, MARCH 7 (OR EARLIER) AS POSSIBLE DATE FOR BRIEFING BY US OFFICIAL ON SECRETARY VANCE'S TRIP, BECAUSE OF LIKELY CONFLICT WITH WINTEX DURING SUCCEEDING WEEK. FRG DELEGATION HAS INDICATED TO US DESIRE TO SEND A MIDDLE EAST EXPERT IF US DOES SO.

(E) FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WE NOTE THAT MARCH 4 NAC WILL BE DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO A REPORT BY AD HOC GROUP REPRESENTATIVES ON MBFR; MARCH 8-15 PERIOD WILL BE TAKEN UP WITH WINTEX; AND THAT APRIL 8-100 WOULD BE INCONVENIENT BECAUSE OF EASTER HOLIDAYS.

3. ACTION REQUEST: IF POSSIBLE BY MARCH 1, GUIDANCE ON POINTS IN PARA 2 AND DEPARTMENT'S VIEW ON NAC CSCE CONSULTATIONS WITH HEADS OF ALLIED DELEGATIONS BETWEEN BELGRADE MEETINGS. STRAUSSZ-HUPE. UNQUOTE VANCE.

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